Vital Holy. Sermon on Phil. 2nd 1

VITAL CHRISITANITY. Talk 1.
Jesus' Condemnation of the Pharisees. Mt.23.

INTRO. The missionary talk at Presbytery.

| Sending Country | Mission Field. |
|---|---|
| RELIGION. | |
| Gospel basis of Xty. are perfect | Gospel Basis of Xty. |
| Historic Manifestations are imperfect | Historic Manifestations |
| CIVILIZATION. | |
| 1.Ideals | 1. Ideals |
| 2. Practices | 2. Practices. |

It occurred to me that ~~it/would/be~~ the right thing for us Xns to do would be to compare our own historic manifestations with the Gospel we profess to have, and our own practices with the ideals we hold for the purpose of the purpose of making them more consistent with each other.

Would such a comparative study lead us to comclude that, to a certain estent at least, we have lost the vital spark of our Xn faith? Would we find the Spirit and Ideals of Jesus( the real vital part of Xty) hidden from view, or at least greatly handicapped in their influence? And if such is the case, what must we do to recover them? What can we learn from past perversions and recoveries?

For an introductory consideration of this whole matter let us turn to Mtt.23 and consider the case of Jesus against the pharisees.

Vs.1-3. The Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.

I. The origin and beginnings of the Pharisees.

After Exile- old monarchy idea bankrupt, the Jews looked for a new type of community gov't. They found it in the Theocratic gov't- half Church and half State

- Based on the Monotheism of the phrophets
- The self-revelation of God in His holy character and creative unity
- The indestructibility of the chosen nation, involving the Messianic hope.

In the place of the phophet came the school-master and drill-master, the synagogue method in the place of the temple method.

The influence of Hellenism had to be combatted, and so the Jews were taught to separate themselves from the idolatrous heathens- they must not intermarry nor practice the ~~abom~~ ways of the foreigners.

This Hellenistic influence threatened to annihilate Judaism and had to be combatted for the sake of self-preservation.

Naturally among the Jews were the few who led the rest, these few, the Puritans of their day, sounded the rally call, separated themselves, not only from the heathen but from the more careless and indifferent of their own and became the organized leadership of the new Judaism. Out of this group sprung the Essenes and the Pharisees. Thus we find the Pharisees, at the time of Christ, the recognized authority in matters of religion.

The Pharisees were primarily Churchmen.

They emphasized spiritual methods.

They were interested in the synagogue, in the schooling of the children and in the missionary extension among the heathen themselves.

We must not forget that it was Phariseeism that paved the way for Xty, in spite of its opposition to it

1. Jesus took the glorified nationalism of his people(of Pharisaic origin) and grafted upon it his conception of the Kingdom of God.

2. The Pharisees made the belief in immortality a part of the common consciousness.

3. It was they who trained the national will and purpose up to the level where Jesus could use it.

No wonder Jesus recognized the right of the Pharisees to sit in Moses seat as the custodians of the Law and the Phophets.

THEN WHY does Jesus condemn the Pharisees?

1. The Pharisees confused the idea of spiritual descent from Jehovah with descent from Abraham
2. They developed the spirit of proud and arrogant orthodoxy, until the the spirit and conceptions of the prophets had been buried almost out of sight.
3. They developed reverence for the Sabbath until it became a superstition which nullified the original intent of Sabbath observance.
4. They over-valued external things until the great fundamental principles of inner life became matters of secondary importance, even of no importance at all. Hence



Hence, the denunciations of Jesus. Read.

How did this change take place in the pharisees, from being the Puritan reformers and spiritual leaders and saviors of the Jews into the stumbling block of Jewish salvation, into a hindrance to further progress and a menace to the very safety and security of Judaism?

Dr.Curry's interesting explanations given at the conference in Berkeley.

BY THE PROCESS OF FOOT-NOTING.

Corban

Have we, by the same process, made the Spirit & ideals of Jesus ineffective in the world today? Have we in any measure lost ~~them~~ our grip upon them?

Next Sunday we begin Sermon on Mt